

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CPR-02 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 SS-14

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APPROVED BY EA: WHSULLIVAN

EA/ K - DLRANARD

S/ S - MR. BARNES

WHITE HOUSE - GENERAL SCOWCROFT

----- 057579

R 150140 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E. O. 11652: N/ A - DECONTROL UPON DELIVERY

TAGS: MOPS: KS, VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: ROK FORCES IN VIET- NAM

1. ALL ROK FORCES IN VIET- NAM WILL HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN BY MARCH 17 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL ROLL- UP UNIT WHICH WILL DEPART MARCH 24. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT PARK:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE REDEPLOYMENT OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA FORCES FROM VIET- NAM TO KOREA IS ALL BUT COMPLETE. IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS SINCE THE FIRST REPUBLIC OF KOREA ARMY UNITS WENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIET- NAM IN RESPONSE TO THAT COUNTRY' S CALL FOR ASSISTANCE IN RESISTING AGGRESSION FROM NORTH VIET- NAM. IN THE INTERVENING YEARS NEITHER YOU NOR YOUR PEOPLE HAVE EVER WAVERED IN THEIR BELIEF THAT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY FOUGHT WAS WORTHY.

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KOREAN FIGHTING MEN OF ALL ARMS EARNED WORLD- WIDE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THEIR COURAGE AND SACRIFICE. THEY PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN BRINGING THE VIET- NAM CONFLICT TO AN HONORABLE CONCLUSION. THE KOREAN PEOPLE ARE ENTITLED TO TAKE GREAT SATISFACTION AND PRIDE IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THEIR ARMED FORCES.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOUR OWN WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF VIET- NAM' S DEFENSE OF ITS INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSIDERATION YOU ALWAYS GAVE TO ITS REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. I AM PARTICULARLY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR WILLINGNESS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR TO DELAY YOUR PLANS FOR REDEPLOYING REPUBLIC OF KOREA FORCES WHILE THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR ENDING THE WAR WERE IN SUCH AN UNCERTAIN STATE.

AS I STATED IN MY RECENT MESSAGE TO YOUR PRIME MINISTER WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATIONS OF STABILITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.

SINCERELY,

RICHARD NIXON. END QUOTE.

2. WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE BUT HAS NO OBJECTION IF RECIPIENT WISHES TO DO SO. PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT IF RELEASED. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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